

Fall 2018

## Focus, 2018, Fall

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### Recommended Citation

Andrews University, "Focus, 2018, Fall" (2018). *Focus*. 81.  
<https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/focus/81>

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# FOCUS

THE ANDREWS UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

FALL 2018  
Vol 54 No 4

PG 10—Howard Happenings  
PG 12—Wellness Center Named  
PG 14—Homecoming 2018  
PG 25—Honored Alumni





# The Urge to Create (and Change)

**Andrea Luxton, president**

**"GIRL WITH BALLOON" BY THE ANONYMOUS** artist, known only as Banksy, sold on October 4, 2018, at Sotheby's for approximately \$1.4 million. That was not the surprise, however. As the hammer fell, and to the shock of the onlookers, especially the purchaser, the picture started descending through a shredder hidden inside the frame. It stopped about halfway down but the original picture was gone. That was the surprise.

According to the painter, this was all part of his plan. Banksy included a caption with the shredder, "The urge to destroy is also a creative urge." Ironically the purchaser still bought the picture, renamed Love in the Bin. Word on the street is that the value has only increased by this action, so maybe in this case destruction was creative—in one sense. Yet there is also a certain sadness in this story, a sense of loss.

As I reflect on this action by Banksy, I find myself deeply disagreeing with the concept that to destroy is a creative urge. I thought of the creativity that is on the Andrews University campus. Whether it is the creativity of our documentary film students who use that medium to share meaningful insights into difficult topics. Or the architecture students who design and build mobile clinics for mission fields in Africa. Or the journalism, photography and graphic art students who design and produce a prize-winning Christian journal, *Envision*. Or our religion and seminary students and faculty, always looking for new and creative ways of doing mission. Or our student researchers, working with faculty, and making new discoveries that can help improve society decisions.

And I could add much more. But the point is that as I look at the urge behind

the creativity on this campus it is driven by a mission of passion for changing lives, changing communities. It is an urge, a mission that is not perhaps common. But it is a mission that is centered in the reality of knowing God as our creator and Jesus as our Lord. It is a creativity that seeks to build up humanity, create new hope even in a world that sometimes seems to focus more on self-destruction. Destruction is not part of this creativity, but creativity seeks to frame opportunity even where there is destruction.

I believe that this is where Adventist education, an Andrews University education, provides a very important and fundamentally different frame for education and careers that follow. This is not a superficial difference; it is critical to the way students approach their own lives, their church, their communities and the wider world. It is a very real and practical way, it is about discovering how to be God's hands, God's feet in a world that desperately needs creativity that leads to hope, healing, reconciliation and faith.



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FOCUS (ISSN 1077-9345) is published quarterly, free of charge, for alumni and friends of Andrews University, an institution owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The magazine's address is FOCUS, Office of University Communication, Andrews University, 8903 U.S. Hwy 31, Berrien Springs MI 49104-1000. Copyright © 2018 by Andrews University. Reproduction in whole or part without permission is prohibited. Printed by The Hamblin Company, Tecumseh MI. Periodicals postage paid at Berrien Springs MI and at additional mailing offices. Please send address changes to FOCUS Magazine, Office of Alumni Services, Andrews University, 8714 E Campus Circle Dr, Berrien Springs MI 49104-0950, email alumni@andrews.edu or call 269-471-3591.



## Features

### 12 **Andreasen Center for Wellness**

*by Gillian Panigot*

The official wellness center name was announced at the Spirit of Philanthropy & Homecoming Banquet on Thursday, Sept. 27, and honors Niels-Erik Andreasen, president emeritus of Andrews.

### 14 **Alumni Homecoming 2018**

An enjoyable weekend opened opportunities for alumni to explore the Andrews campus and connect with friends, faculty, staff and students.

### 25 **Honored Alumni 2018**

Congratulations to the recipients of the Andrews University Alumni Association Medallion: Deborah Bennett Berecz, Bruce Boyer, Bruce Closser, Kevin McDonald and Esther Ottley.

## Departments

#### **On the cover:**

*President Emeritus  
Niels-Erik Andreasen and  
Demetra Andreasen in  
front of the Andreasen  
Center for Wellness,  
September 28, 2018*

#### **Photo credit:**

*Darren  
Heslop (BFA '10),  
University Communication  
staff photographer*

- 2 President's Desk
- 4 Letters & Preamble
- 5 Social Media
- 6 Campus Update
- 10 Howard Happenings
- 11 Faculty & Staff
- 21 Alumni Calendar
- 22 Alumni News
- 32 Class Notes
- 33 Life Stories